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# FOREIGN NEWS

IN CHARGE OF  
LAVINIA L. DOCK

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## ORGANIZATION NOTES AND CURRENT EVENTS

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### NURSING ORGANIZATION IN AUSTRALIA

[Miss S. B. MCGAHEY, superintendent of Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, has kindly sent the following account to THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. Miss McGahey is a graduate of the London Hospital.—Ed.]

“Years have passed away since the first attempt was made in Sydney to establish some form of registration for the trained nurse. Many difficulties arose then and since, and even as late as the beginning of 1899 the outlook was anything but promising; but, fortunately for the trained nurse, registration in the Australasian colonies has now become an established fact. It was brought about in this way: one of the leading Sydney surgeons invited several nurses and doctors to meet at his house to discuss the advisability of establishing a bureau where medical men and the public could obtain trained nurses at short notice. The nurses were not in favor of this proposal, and after a few months’ deliberation a public meeting was held in Sydney, to which were invited the members of the medical profession and the trained nurses. To this meeting was submitted for alteration or approval a constitution, which was drawn up by a sub-committee consisting of doctors, matrons, and nurses. The meeting decided to name the association after the colony in which it took its inception, and for some months it bore the name of the ‘New South Wales Trained Nurses’ Association.’

“A few clauses in the constitution were not passed, one in particular being concessional, which was drawn up to meet the case of those who had been trained when twelve, fifteen, eighteen months’, and two years’ certificates were granted. Unfortunately, a big majority of nurses holding three-year certificates were absent from the meeting, and they, together with those who had been outvoted, got up a petition asking the president of the association to call a general meeting to reconsider the concessional clauses which had been rejected, thereby excluding their fellow-nurses, trained before the three-years’ system was adopted. Some months later a meeting of the members was called, and by a big majority the following clause was passed:

“‘Any nurse who can show to the satisfaction of the council that she has been engaged for not less than three years in the bona-fide work of medical and surgical nursing, either in hospitals or in private nursing, and can produce certificates of competency and good conduct satisfactory to the council from at least three reputable medical practitioners as to her attainments and repute,

shall be eligible for registration up to March 31, 1900, subject to the approval of the council. Provided always that the council shall have power in any case to direct that any candidate under this rule may be examined in practical nursing by three examiners appointed by the council; and provided further that in the case of nurses registered under this rule the qualification in the Register shall stand as "Admitted by the council under the provision of Rule XXI."

"In view of the fact that many nurses trained in other colonies had joined the association, it was suggested that its name should be altered, so as to embrace the whole of the Australasian colonies. This suggestion was accordingly adopted, and for some months it has been known as the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association."

"On July 20, 1900, the number of male and female nurses registered by the association amounted to three hundred and twenty-six. Of these two hundred and eighty-four are living in New South Wales, eighteen in Queensland, fifteen in Victoria, three in Tasmania, two in Western Australia, two in New Zealand, and two in South Australia. The council of the association has issued to all the hospitals in the Australasian colonies a schedule, giving in detail the minimum amount of instruction deemed necessary to qualify nurses working in such hospitals for registration. Already a number of the large hospitals and some of the smaller ones, whose course of instruction is known to include the necessary teaching, have been recognized."

"One of the objects of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association is to initiate and control schemes that will afford nurses a means of providing an allowance during incapacity for work caused by sickness, accident, age, or other necessitous circumstances, and with a view to carrying out this object it was considered advisable to make the association as widely known as possible. This the council of the association was able to do through the kind courtesy of the mayor and mayoress of Sydney (Sir Matthew and Lady Harris), who gave a conversazione in the Sydney Town Hall, to which they invited about eighteen hundred of the well-known members of society and all the nurses of the association."

"The Australasian Trained Nurses' Association is daily becoming better known, and it is hoped before many years have elapsed that the medical profession and the public who employ nurses will have only those who are properly trained, and thereby stamp out the untrained women who style themselves nurses and flourish in the Australasian colonies."

"A Benevolent Fund has been inaugurated, and although the amount subscribed is small, yet hopes are entertained that it will grow steadily till the required amount is obtained."

"S. B. McG."

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#### THE NEW NURSING ASSOCIATION IN HOLLAND

THE "Dutch Association for Furthering the Interests of Male and Female Nurses," of which we spoke in a previous issue, has, we learn from the correspondent of the *Nursing Record*, lately held a general meeting in Amsterdam.

The association aims to unite the men and women nurses of Holland into one band, and to further their interests in all ways. Articles of agreement include the following objects:

- "1. The organization of meetings where mutual interests shall be discussed.
- "2. The publishing of a special organ and other writings, and the founding of a library.
- "3. The establishing of a central office for addresses.
- "4. The founding of pension funds and sick funds.
- "5. The building of homes for sisters.
- "6. Co-operation with other societies having similar aims.
- "The association is to be managed entirely by nurses, men and women."

Does not this all sound quite natural? We believe here are some congenial spirits, and hope to become better acquainted in the future. A Preliminary Board of Management, whose chairman was Dr. C. F. Schreve, presented a constitution and did the initial work. The chairman in his address urges the strength of union, and declares his hostility to the maxim, "Divide and reign," which had previously obtained in the nursing world.

He mentions prejudice and opposition to the new association, but also promise of a large membership, and cautions keeping out of politics; which hints loudly to us of past trouble.

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#### A GERMAN NURSE AUTHORESS

It is delightful to find in the September number of *Unter dem rothen Kreuz* a notice of a book on nursing written by a German nurse, a Red Cross Sister. Among many books and lectures on nursing written in Germany, this is the first one of which we have heard as written by a nurse.

According to the review, it is a text-book for nurses and families called "How Shall we Care for our Sick?" and, beginning with a simple treatise on anatomy and physiology, goes on to describe symptoms and the care of medical and surgical cases, finishing with a chapter on cookery for the sick, with receipts.

While the book no doubt deserves all the praise which the reviewer gives it, the most interesting thing about it, in our opinion, is that a German nurse has written it.

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#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S LEAGUE FOR NURSES

THE League of St. Bartholomew's Nurses is growing rapidly, its membership now exceeding that of our older associations.

*League News*, its official publication, is a very handsomely gotten-up journal of twenty-four pages, bound in the same green as our own magazine, and containing editorial matter, contributions and news, foreign correspondence, and names and addresses of members. The first number appeared in May and the second in November just passed.

We suggest that those of our alumnæ associations which publish a journal exchange with the league. It will give them a fresh feeling of unity and of the identity of our movements. The objects of the league are: "By union to encourage the members to maintain a high standard of work and conduct," "Mutual help and pleasure," and "To promote the establishment of a fund for the relief of former nurses of the hospital who are in distressed circumstances and need either temporary or permanent help."

The editor says, among her remarks: "Among Bart's nurses the sense of comradeship and unity is strongly felt, and it is meet that they should be the first to form themselves into an association. The pioneers of any movement must always face difficulties and mistakes, and must be prepared to be criticised in no very friendly spirit. There is only one real danger, and that is, want of unanimity among themselves. Difference of opinion there must be on every subject,—religion, politics, ethics. Without opposition there is no life, and differences of opinion are always healthy when there is also generosity of feeling and reserve in utterance."

Does this not speak to all of us?

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### LETTERS

#### "U. S. SHIP RELIEF, MANILA BAY.

" . . . Our trip on the transport was very enjoyable. There was a great deal to see in Honolulu, but I was just a trifle disappointed: it is not exactly as one knows it from books. You see very little of the real life of the natives. One needs to go far back into the island to see how they live." . . . "I had a fine opportunity to see Manila; it is so picturesque and beautiful. You would enjoy the churches, which are numerous and beautiful, with vines, shrubbery, and even small trees growing out from their walls. The interiors are handsome, with inlaid hard-wood floors or marble tiling. One church had the entire ceiling, columns, altar, and pulpit carved in hard wood. It took years to do this carving, and in the States it would be almost priceless. It was all done by Filipinos.

"The women here wear peculiar garments of cloth woven from the banana and cocoanut fibre." . . . "There is a curfew law, and no one is allowed in the street after eight-thirty. It used to be seven-thirty.

"'Old Manila' is the walled city and has most of the old churches. The 'Luneta' is a fine drive-way on the water front bordered on both sides by palms, at one end a large plaza with a band-stand in the centre and a drive going all around. A band plays here every evening, and hundreds of carriages are to be seen.

"In former times the Spaniards used to bring their prisoners here and shoot them right while the concert was going on. This was their principal amusement. Wasn't it horrible?" . . .

"On one of the trips of the Relief, after taking on nearly two hundred patients, we were signalled that there was fighting farther north, and help was needed." . . . "The Relief took on over two hundred cavalymen to go to the rescue. Every hospital corps man and steward was dressed in his uniform ready to take up arms. The ship had both engines on; steam and hot water were shut off all over, so that she could make eighteen knots an hour. It was a rush for life. When she was well under way, the excitement, which was intense, was added to by the worst enemy of all,—our ship was on fire!

"The shrill blasts, however, were not given, for fear of creating a panic among the sick and wounded. Everything was done quietly. The soldiers were all regulars and disciplined, and there was not the slightest confusion. On we rushed, but had to drop to seventeen knots and the decks were flooded for hours, so as not to catch again from the heat of the smoke-stack. When we reached our

destination the fight was over, and we took on wounded who had driven thirteen miles in ambulance." . . .

"As soon as we anchored the little native boats surrounded us, each flying a white flag and selling native fruits." . . .

"HONG-KONG, CHINA, —, 1900.

". . . . Hong-Kong is beautifully situated on a mountainous island which comes right down to the water's edge. At night the effect is gorgeous, with the millions of lights scintillating on the mountain side almost up to its peak, and the thousands of lights in the harbor like so many brilliant stars.

"The peak is reached by a tramway running up three-fourths of the distance; here coolies wait with sedan-chairs swung on bamboo poles, which they carry on their shoulders, to carry you still farther. About a hundred yards from the top you get out of the chair and climb to the peak, where the signal-station is situated. As you are out of breath from climbing, you cannot give vent to your admiration of the magnificent view which greets you.

"Honolulu, the 'Paradise of the Pacific,' is beautiful, but Hong-Kong surpasses it in natural scenery and beauty. There are many beautiful residences here, but for real Chinese life go to Canton.

"Imagine a city of two million inhabitants, half of them living on 'sampans' in the water; the streets averaging seven feet wide; houses so close that in places you cannot see the sky above you; shrieking, yelling humanity, like a swarm of flies, and an odor that will last a lifetime. This is Canton. We saw temples galore: 'Flowery Forest Monastery, or Temple, of Five Hundred Genii;' 'Kwong-hau Temple of Buddha,' A.D. 250; 'The Viceroy's Literary Club;' 'Temple of Queen of Heaven,' and many others.

"'Examination Hall' consists of eleven thousand stone cells, where the students from Pekin come to take their civil examinations. The old water clock, five hundred years old, still keeps time.

"The carved ivory and kingfisher-feather works were very interesting, but the feather-workers are said to become blind in a few years.

"We went in a launch to Macao, a Portuguese settlement about forty miles down the coast. It is one of the prettiest and cleanest cities I ever saw. Here are silk and tea industries, opium farms, etc. The Public Gardens are fine, and here is the Grotto of Camoëns, the Portuguese poet.

"We also visited the big gambling-house, where the great gambling-game 'fantan' is played. While there we saw a Chinaman put down a large roll of bills and receive three times the amount.

"Looking out upon Canton and the surrounding country from a five-story pagoda, it is a land of graveyards. For miles and miles you see nothing but graves.

"We return to Manila in a few days." . . .

"M. PFEIFER."

[Miss Pfeifer is the graduate of a Cincinnati school, we do not learn of which one, and spent a year on the United States Hospital Ship Relief, visiting nearly all the islands of the Philippines, and seeing much of interest. We hope she will relate more tales in the future.—ED.]

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MISS WATERS, Johns Hopkins Hospital, is spending the winter in Hanover, studying German.